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Diana T Fritz 02/06/2007 05:23:34 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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CONFIDENTIAL

SIPDIS  
TELEGRAM

July 07, 2004

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 2263 - ROUTINE)  
TAGS: EPET, PGOV, BEXP, ENRG, ECON, EINV  
Captions: None  
Subject: UAEG RECEIVES DEMARCHE ON IRAN GAS NEGOTIATIONS  
Ref: None

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 02263

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: ECON  
INFO: P/M AMB DCM POL  
Laser1:  
INFO: FCS

DISSEMINATION: ECON  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: CDA: RALBRIGHT  
DRAFTED: ECON: CCRUMPLER  
CLEARED: NONE

VZCZCADI041  
RR RUEHC RUEHZM RUEHDE RUCPDOC RHEBAAA RUEHLO  
RUEHFR  
DE RUEHAD #2263 1891107  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
R 071107Z JUL 04  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5032  
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE  
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 4130  
RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC  
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0816  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0854

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 002263

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E.O. 12958: DECL 07/07/09  
TAGS: [EPET](#) [PGOV](#) [BEXP](#) [ENRG](#) [ECON](#) [EINV](#) [TC](#) [IR](#)  
SUBJECT: UAEG RECEIVES DEMARCHE ON IRAN GAS NEGOTIATIONS

REFS: A) SECSTATE 144237 B) ABU DHABI 2033 AND PREVIOUS

11. (U) Classified by Charge d'Affaires, a.i. Richard A. Albright, for reasons 1.5 (B) and (D).

12. (C) Charge delivered ref A talking points to MFA Assistant Secretary Abdullah Rashid Al-Noaimi July 6, and expressed our concerns about Abu Dhabi's potential project to import gas from Iran. Al-Noaimi agreed that Tehran pursues policies that destabilize the region, including its ongoing pursuit of WMD, but noted, "they are our neighbors," with whom the UAE must co-exist. In his view,

a boycott of Iran is not the solution, nor is it a practical option for the UAE -- Iran is the UAE's top trading partner for non-oil goods, and a sizable Iranian expat community is resident here.

13. (C) Al-Noaimi posed a hypothetical situation to Charge: If Iran built a pipeline (without UAE investment) to an offshore gas facility, and the UAE built its own pipeline to the same gas facility, and the two pipelines were then linked to import gas to the UAE, would such a scenario violate U.S. laws against investment in Iran? (Comment: It seems from our dialogue with Al-Noaimi and numerous other UAE interlocutors that a pipeline "link up" is what the UAEG's lawyers have advised. End comment.) Charge replied that Washington would need to examine the specifics of any project to make a determination about the applicability of U.S. law. But he reminded Al-Noaimi that the U.S. would oppose, in principle, any agreement that benefits Iran, a country that poses a threat to us, to the UAE and others in the region.

14. (C) Charge asked Al-Noaimi if a potential gas deal would be linked to concessions from Iran on other issues, such as Iran's occupation of Abu Musa and the Tunbs. Al-Noaimi replied that a gas supply agreement with Iran would not/not be contingent on resolution of the islands issue, but conceded that a gas agreement with Iran was more than a simple commercial arrangement. Any deal would have political overtones. Charge stated that despite our differing positions, it was important that we remain in communication about the gas project. Al-Noaimi agreed.

Albright